

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 02331 010245Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 CA-01 PPT-01 L-01 SP-02
NSC-05 /031 W
-----028598 010835Z /21
R 010037Z AUG 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1522

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2331

LIMDIS

FOR EA AND SCA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CPAS, PFOR, CH, US
SUBJ: LISTING OF TIBET AS BIRTHPLACE IN US PASSPORTS

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE DEPARTMENT NOW HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION A CHANGE IN PASSPORT POLICY THAT WOULD ENABLE AMERICANS BORN IN TIBET TO HAVE TIBET LISTED AS THEIR PLACE OF BIRTH IN THEIR US PASSPORTS. WHILE OBVIOUSLY MANY CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN SUCH A POLICY REVIEW, IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY SUCH POLICY CHANGE WOULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON OUR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

2. AT A TIME WHEN THE TAIWAN ISSUE IS THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM BLOCKING THE NORMALIZATION OF US-PRC RELATIONS, THE PRC IS EXPECTED TO BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO ANY PLAN BY THE US THAT WOULD BE SEEN BY PEKING AS CONSTITUTING AN ADDITIONAL US CHALLENGE TO THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF CHINA. PERMITTING TIBET TO BE LISTED AS A PLACE OF BIRTH IN US PASSPORTS WOULD BE INTERPRETED BY PEKING AS A BLATANT ACT OF INTERFERENCE IN CHINA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SUCH ACTION COULD, THEREFORE, ADD ONE FURTHER COMPLICATION TO THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS.

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MALIZATION PROCESS.

3. I ASSUME THAT WHATEVER DECISION IS REACHED ON THIS ISSUE, OUR PRACTICE IN LISTING BIRTHPLACES IN US PASSPORTS WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PUBLICLY STATED POSITION OF THE US GOVERNMENT THAT NO US POLICY OR ACTION IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT TIBET IS NOT A PART OF CHINA. WOODCOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Concepts: PASSPORTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: CPAS, PFOR, CH, US
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